

## Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 IO-13 AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01 /128 W

----- 062568

R 242152Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 765

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MCAP BL CI

SUBJ: BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT DISMISSES RUMORS OF TROOP MOVEMENTS ON  
CHILEAN BORDER

REF: SANTIAGO 3784; SANTIAGO 3768

1. BOLIVIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
HAVE ENERGETICALLY REJECTED STORY PROPAGATED BY CHILEAN CONGRESSMAN  
JORGE INSUNZA THAT BOLIVIAN ARMED FORCES ARE ENGAGED IN SUSPICIOUS  
MANEUVERS ALONG BORDER PREPARATORY TO INVADING CHILE. MINISTER  
OF DEFENSE JAIME FLORENTINO MENDIETA " EMPHATICALLY AND CATEGORICALLY"

DENIED ANY INTENTION ON PART OF BOLIVIAN MILITARY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE  
OF CURRENT UNREST IN CHILE FOR ASSAULT ON THAT COUNTRY. HE DESCRIBED  
INSUNZA'S STATEMENT AS A DEVICE FOR DISTRACTING ATTENTION OF CHILEAN  
PEOPLE FROM THEIR MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS. MEANWHILE, AN OFFICIAL  
DECLARATION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATED THAT "BOLIVIA IS AN  
ESSENTIALLY PACIFIST COUNTRY" AND PREFERS TO SETTLE ITS DIFFERENCES  
WITH OTHER STATES BY MEANS OF PEACEFUL DIALOGUE. SPECIFICALLY  
ADDRESSING ISSUE OF BOLIVIAN DESIRE FOR ACCESS TO SEA, FOREIGN MINISTRY  
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COMMUNIQUE NOTED THAT CHILEAN AND BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS RECENTLY

HAD AMICABLE DISCUSSION OF THIS AND OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES DURING RECENT MEETING OF ANDEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN LIMA.

2. DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY SANTIAGO WILL ALSO HAVE NOTED VIGOROUS DENIAL ISSUED BY BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR VALENCIA IN WASHINGTON.

3. COMMENT: STATEMENTS OF LEADING GOB SPOKESMAN ON INSUNZA'S ALLEGATIONS ACCURATELY REFLECT OFFICIAL BOLIVIAN THINKING ON RELATIONS WITH CHILE AT THIS TIME. DESPITE CONSTANT REITERATION OF REVANCHIST "TO THE SEA" THEME IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS, BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT REALISTICALLY ACCEPTS FACT THAT RELATIVELY FEEBLE STATE OF BOLIVIAN ARMED FORCES RULES OUT ANY LARGE-SCALE CONFRONTATION WITH THEIR CHILEAN COUNTERPARTS FOR FORSEEABLE FUTURE.  
BREWIN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, MCAP, BL, CI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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